



March 12, 2015

Director Steven Kotke
Minneapolis Public Works
350 S. 5th St., Room 203
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Re: Proposed Bikeway on 31st Street

Dear Mr. Kotke,

We understand the City of Minneapolis is proposing a new Bikeway on East 31st Street between Bloomington and Hiawatha Avenues. We applaud this timely work to improve bicycle connections for several major programs and development projects. The Bikeway will also improve wayfinding for an area that boasts strong proximity to regional networks but few safe or apparent connections to these networks, especially for new cyclists.

CNO hosted a March 5 public meeting for the project, attended by 15 residents and Public Works staff. Some valuable insights and discussion at that meeting informed the following recommendations related to the proposed Bikeway. Given the imminent groundbreaking of development at 2225 East Lake and 3100 Hiawatha, we recommend postponing the eastmost portion and using allocated resources to connect to the Midtown Greenway.

Using allocated resources, we recommend that the City of Minneapolis:

1. Build the 31st Street Bikeway from Bloomington to 21st Ave now, and explore sharrows or other low-cost wayfinding provisions east of 21st Ave.
2. Build the planned 21st Avenue Bikeway from the Midtown Greenway to South High now.
3. Complete the 31st St. Bikeway later, once development projects are substantially underway or complete.

Please refer to the attached diagram for clarity on our recommendations.

This hybrid plan would connect to the following programs and projects:

	<u>31st Street Bikeway</u>	<u>Midtown Greenway</u>
2,000 students at South High	X	X
2,500 daily visits to the YWCA Midtown and Minneapolis Sports Center	X	X
60,000 annual customers of the Midtown Farmers Market	X	X
L&H Station dev. of County offices, retail, plaza, 565 homes at 2225 East Lake	X	X
Corcoran Triangle development of 130 homes at 3100 Hiawatha	X	X
MPS Adult Basic Education development at 21xx East Lake	X	X

Sincerely,

LisaBeth Barajas
Board Chair

Cc: Council Member Alondra Cano